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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child

Seventy-seventh session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2282nd meeting**
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 2 February 2018, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Winter

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Closure of the session

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.
** No summary record was issued for the 2281st meeting.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.05 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chair** said that, as of 2 February 2018, there were 196 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As of the same date, 167 States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, while 174 States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Thirty-seven States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

2. During the session, the Committee had considered eight reports, all under the Convention, from the following eight countries: Guatemala, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Panama, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Spain and Sri Lanka. The consideration of the reports of the Marshall Islands, Palau and Solomon Islands had taken place by videoconference. She took it that the Committee wished to adopt the concluding observations that had been drawn up for those eight States parties.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. The Committee had reviewed the information it had received under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. In that context, it had reviewed three communications. In respect of communication No. 3/2016, *K.Y.M. v. Denmark*, the Committee had found a violation of the Convention by the State party. It had found communication No. 10/2017, *B.S.S. et al. v. France*, inadmissible and had decided to discontinue consideration of communication No. 18/2017.

5. The Committee had continued its work on the simplified reporting procedure. It had also begun revising general comment No. 10 (2007) on children's rights in juvenile justice and preparing for its next day of general discussion, entitled "Protecting and empowering children human rights defenders", which would be held in September 2018.

6. The Committee's seventy-eighth session would take place from 14 May to 1 June 2018. The programme of work would be posted on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coming weeks.

7. **Mr. Gastaud** (Rapporteur) said that Committee members had taken part in a number of activities related to their mandate since the closure of the seventy-sixth session in late September 2017. The Chair had participated in events in the United States of America, Georgia, Switzerland, Belgium, Kazakhstan and Ukraine on a wide variety of topics, including the work of the Committee, juvenile justice and children's ombudsmen. At a round table in Kyiv, she had discussed child protection with representatives of the Government of Ukraine.

8. In November, Ms. Aldoseri had given a talk at an international conference in Kuwait City on the rights of Palestinian children. Her talk had concerned the violence to which those children were subjected. Mr. Kotrane had given a presentation at the same conference concerning violations of the rights of Palestinian children as addressed in the Committee's concluding observations on the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Israel (CRC/C/ISR/CO/2-4).

9. In October, Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi had participated in a comparative law conference in Rome organized by universities from Italy and Morocco and the courts of cassation of those countries. She had also participated in a conference at the headquarters of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the topic of investing for the rights of the child. Ms. Khazova had represented the Committee at the seventh meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Child Protection Convention, which had been held in the Netherlands.

10. Mr. Lumina had represented the Committee at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Bonn, Germany. He had been a panellist at two side events and met with representatives of YOUNGO, a coalition of youth organizations granted constituency status by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

11. In October, Mr. Mezmur had taken part in an international congress in Rome on the dignity of the child in the digital world and had given a talk to representatives of Save the Children in Geneva. In November, he had helped moderate a meeting of non-governmental organizations working to combat child marriage and given a talk at a summit in São Paulo, Brazil, on the legal rights of street-connected children and youth. He had also participated in a discussion of the work of the Committee at a symposium in Geneva.

12. In October, Mr. Madi had participated in discussions in Geneva on harmonizing follow-up to treaty body concluding observations. In November, he had given a presentation at a regional conference in Athens on joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration. Also in November, Mr. Nelson had given a talk on the Convention, the work of the Committee and the relationship of corporal punishment to domestic violence at a workshop in Samoa.

13. Ms. Otani had participated in a number of meetings and other events related to children's rights. They had included a side event in Geneva in late September on the right to education and events in India and Japan in October on the prohibition of corporal punishment, among other issues. In November, she had given a keynote speech at a conference in Sofia organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation. Later in the month, she had delivered another keynote speech at a symposium in Tokyo. She had also participated in the international summit in São Paulo attended by a number of other Committee members and in several events in Japan, including a symposium in Kumamoto, where she had been a keynote speaker. In December, she had represented the Committee at the launch in New York of its joint general comment with the Committee on Migrant Workers.

14. In November, Mr. Pedernera Reyna, together with the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Migrant Workers, had presented the newly adopted joint general comment in Buenos Aires. He had given a similar presentation, by videoconference, at a meeting of regional officials in El Salvador later in the month. In December, in Panama City, he had given a talk on general comment No. 10. In Quito, together with Mr. Rodríguez Reyes, he had participated in meetings organized to present and disseminate the recommendations transmitted to Ecuador by the Committee.

15. In October, Ms. Sandberg had given a talk on the right to participation at a seminar in Helsinki and, in November, she had organized a seminar for Scandinavian academics researching children's rights and the law. Ms. Skelton had participated in a conference in Belfast, United Kingdom, and at the international summit in São Paulo she had given a speech on general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations.

16. In October, by invitation of the United Nations Association of Bulgaria, Ms. Todorova had given a presentation on the Committee's mandate. In November, she had participated in events in Sofia and Minsk. At the seminar in Minsk, she had given a talk on the establishment and development of national human rights institutions for children.

17. Mr. Gastaud himself had given a presentation on general comment No. 21 at the annual general assembly of the Consortium for Street Children, which had been held in London in November. Later in November, at the international summit in São Paulo, he had delivered a keynote speech on the implementation of that general comment.

18. On 31 January 2018, Committee members and representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had held their sixth biennial meeting. They had discussed ways of strengthening their partnership, sharing information and enhancing the implementation by States parties of the recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations. The Committee's tenth informal meeting with States, at which the representatives of the States in attendance had been informed of the Committee's work, had been held on 1 February 2018.

19. The working group responsible for revising general comment No. 10, coordinated by Mr. Jean Zermatten, a former chair of the Committee, had considered the first draft of revisions to the general comment at a meeting held during the session. The working group

tasked with developing a method of enabling children to participate in the next day of general discussion, coordinated by Ms. Sandberg, had considered an advance draft of a proposal for such a method, while another group coordinated by Ms. Sandberg had looked into issues related to the simplified reporting procedure. The group on working methods, coordinated by Mr. Cardona Lorens and Ms. Otani, had begun codifying the Committee's practices.

20. The working group established to consider possible amendments to the Committee's rules of procedure, coordinated by Mr. Madi, was expected to continue discussing those amendments in the light of additional information. The working group coordinated by Ms. Otani and Mr. Pedernera Reyna that was responsible for preparing the day of general discussion to be held in September 2018 had held a number of meetings to discuss related issues. The group set up to draft guidelines for the preparation of reports under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, coordinated by Ms. Khazova, had pursued its work, as had the group coordinated by Mr. Mezmur, which was considering how to incorporate references to the Sustainable Development Goals into the Committee's concluding observations.

21. During the session, Committee members had met in Geneva with specialists in a number of fields. Those meetings had included discussions with representatives of Terre des Hommes International Federation, who had presented an account of the recommendations related to climate change that had appeared in the Committee's concluding observations. Discussions with other specialists had covered such matters as Roma children who were incarcerated with their parents and the possible adoption of a general comment on terrorism and the rights of the child. Representatives of the World Federation of the Deaf had explained their work, while members of a Latin American network on the right to health, both children and adults, had given a presentation on good health practices in Latin America. Members of the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar had briefed the Committee on the rights of Rohingya children in Myanmar.

22. **The Chair** said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the report on its seventy-seventh session.

23. *It was so decided.*

24. **The Chair** declared closed the seventy-seventh session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.